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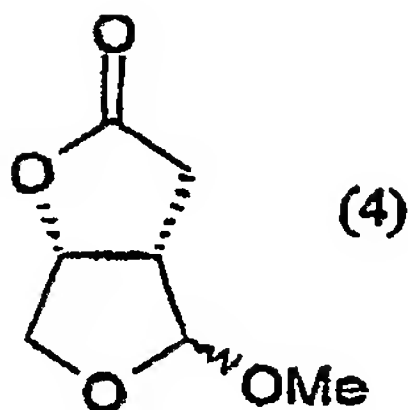
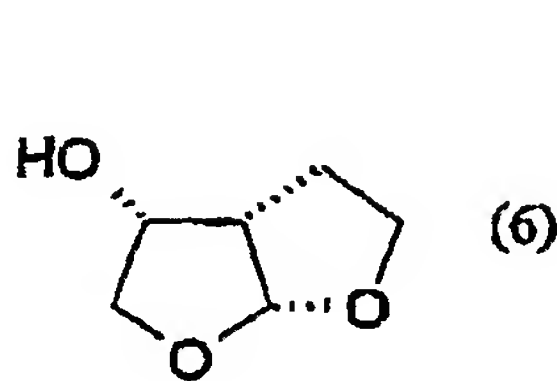
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(54) Title: METHODS FOR THE PREPARATION OF (3R,3aS,6aR) HEXAHYDRO-FURO[2,3-b]FURAN-3-OL



(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to methods
for the preparation of diastereomerically pure (3R,3aS,6aR)
hexahydro-furo[2,3-b]furan-3-ol (6) as well as a
novel intermediate, (3aR,4S,6aS) 4-methoxy-tetrahy-
dro-furo[3,4-b]furan-2-one (4) for use in said methods.
More in particular the invention relates to a stereoselective
method for the preparation of diastereomerically pure
(3R,3aS,6aR) hexahydro-furo[2,3-b]furan-3-ol, as well
as methods for the crystallization of (3aR,4S,6aS)
4-methoxy-tetrahydro-furo[3,4-b]furan-2-one and for
the epimerization of (3aR,4R,6aS) 4-methoxy-tetrahy-

dro-furo[3,4-b]-furan-2-one to (3aR,4S,6aS) 4-methoxy-tetrahydro-furo[3,4-b]furan-2-one.